

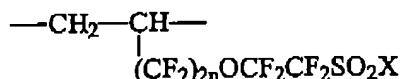
Application No. 10/602,755
Art Unit 1713, Examiner Hu
Docket No. CL-1459 US DIV
November 23, 2005
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In the Claims:

Please (a) rewrite Claims 4 and 13; and (b) cancel Claims 9~12 and 16~17 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof. The requested amendments to Claims 4 and 13 are shown below in a marked-up version of those claims, as required by 37 CFR §1.121(c). In all requested amendments, deletions are shown by strike-through, and additions are shown by underlining. A complete listing of all other claims indicating the status thereof is also shown below.

1 ~ 3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended) A polymer comprising monomer units of VF₂ and 1 to 40 mol % of ionic monomer units described by the formula



where n=1 n >= 1, X is O⁻M⁺, or N⁻(M⁺)SO₂R_f where M⁺ is H⁺ or an alkali metal cation and R_f is C1-4 perfluoroalkyl optionally substituted by one or more ether oxygens.

5. (original) The polymer of Claim 4 wherein the concentration of said ionic monomer units is 6 to 16 mol-%.

6. (original) The polymer of Claim 4 wherein X is N⁻(M⁺)SO₂R_f where M⁺ is H⁺ or an alkali metal cation and R_f is C1-4 perfluoroalkyl optionally substituted by one or more ether oxygens.

7. (original) The polymer of Claim 4 or 6 wherein M⁺ is H⁺ or Li⁺.

8. (original) The polymer of Claim 6 wherein R_f is CF₃, and n=1.

9 ~ 12. (canceled).

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13. (currently amended) A process for forming a composition of the formula $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}(\text{CF}_2)_{2n}\text{OCF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{SO}_3^-\text{M}^+$ where $n \geq 1$, M^+ is H^+ or an alkali metal cation, the process consisting essentially of contacting a composition represented by the formula $\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}(\text{CF}_2)_{2n}\text{OCF}_2\text{CF}_2\text{SO}_2\text{F}$ with a weakly basic solution of an alkali metal salt or hydroxide in a polar solvent, the solution having a pH of less than ea.-about 12, at a temperature in the range of 0-50°C.

14. (original) The process of Claim 13 wherein the alkali metal salt or hydroxide is an alkali metal carbonate.

15. (original) The process of Claim 14 wherein the alkali metal carbonate is lithium carbonate.

16 ~ 17. (canceled).